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#### BEHEMOTH

- Loch Ness: \* end of Aug 1972: Commander A G W Bellars spotted two humps in the water off Urquhart Castle (Inverness Courier, 29 Aug 1972, quoted in Inverness Courier 29 Aug 1997, reprinted in Andreas Trottmann's Loch Ness Newsclipping Service 3: 3 \* 1994: an angler had a scary experience when, one night at Invermoriston Camping Park, "a large black beast with a head like a rhino broke the surface and started swimming in his direction". (Fortean Times 105, p. 18) \* early Feb 1997: a family reported seeing, for two minutes, an object in the Loch off Foyers. Steve Feltham felt the report to be doubtful. (Nessletter 131, p. 4) \* March 1997: a couple reported two humps opposite Aldourie Castle (Nessletter 131, p. 4) \* 21 March 1997: Arnold (surname unknown) saw two humps in the Loch north of the Clansman Hotel (Nessletter 131, p. 4) \* 22 March 1997: Richard Whyte saw a number of dark objects opposite Urquhart Castle and took 8 or 9 photographs of them. "Undoubtedly a boat wake" (Nessletter 131, p. 4) \* April 1997: a visitor sees humps in the Foyers area (Nessletter 131, p. 4) \* June 1997: "a tale" circulated about two American film crew members who were with Bob Rines saw "a dark object moving quickly in the water" off Strone, but this could be a joke that got out of hand (Nessletter 131, p. 4) \* end June 1997: according to rumours, Bob Rines and crew saw "something large with an underwater TV camera" (Nessletter 131, p. 2) \* end June: yet unconfirmed, Bob Rines and crew registered an unusual target on their sonar "one night" (Nessletter 131, p. 3) \* 2 July 1997: "Royal Scot" had a sonar contact off Fort Augustus (Nessletter 131, p. 5) \* 4 July 1997: "Royal Scot" has one more sonar contact at the same place (Nessletter 131, p. 5) \* end July, Loch Lochy: According to a press report in the Inverness Courier, Richard Carter and his crew picked up a large unexplained echo on the sonar in Loch Lochy. However, Carter did not see it, only his two rather unexperienced colleagues, and he thinks it is "nothing of any significance". More details in Nessletter 131, p. 6 and Loch Ness Newsclipping Service 3: 3 \* summer 1997: a seal was reportedly in Loch Ness (Nessletter 131, p. 1) \* 9 Aug 1997, 3 am, at Invermoriston Camping Park Glasgow woman hears "humming noise". (Fortean Times 105, p. 18)
- Peru 1: I missed this when it happened: In the Amazonian jungle three children were killed by an anaconda in April 1997. The serpent capsized the boat of the three fishing children in Rio Uca-yali and then strangled them, the Peruvian newspaper "Expreso" reported. The animal was 6m/20ft in length.
- Peru 2: Further to the "Peruvian Nessie" report from last Bilk, I have several additional sources. According to Science & Vie, Oct 1997 (credit: F. de Sarre), Le Figaro, 21 Aug 1997, Fortean Times 104, p. 18 and esotera 11/1997, the giant serpent appeared in the Amazonian village Nuevo Tacna. It was ca 40m long and 5m wide, and had two "antennae" at the head which resembled the trunk of an elephant. The creature left a track of destruction 300m long and 10m wide! It's hard to know what to make of this.
- Schwerin, Germany: An angler send a picture of himself with a gigantic 1 m, 56 pound carp at the shore of the Pinower See (Lake) to the local paper Schweriner Volkszeitung. However, he had scanned the carp from the angling magazine Rute und Rolle and pixeled it into his own photo. Readers discovered the fake when they remembered the picture of the giant carp, this time caught by a Belgian, from the magazine. The angler claimed he'd faked the whole thing to stop his angling companions from boasting! (Badische Neueste Nachrichten, 22 Oct 1997)
- Bibliography: \* Manipogo: Fortean Times/FT 104, p. 15 \* Dobhar-chú: FT 105, p. 17 \* monsters in Lake Gryttjen, Sweden; Altamaha River, Georgia; Lake Murray, South Carolina: FT 106, p. 14. \* The

Migo, praised by cryptozoologists as another mighty discovery, has been three crocodiles swimming in a row: FT 106, p. 15.

#### ISIS

● Copenhagen: 33 years ago, the little mermaid was beheaded. Now psychologist Finn Ejnar Madson admitted to Politiken newspaper that his friend, the artist Henrik Bruun, had done it. Bruun had kept the mermaid's head in his bed, but threw it into Copenhagen harbour shortly before he died. (Welt, 29 Oct 1997, p. 12)

#### MARINE LIFE

● Whales: It is winter, and as usual whales beach all over the world (though it is summer on the southern hemisphere) \* Orcas at Exmouth, Australia (Süddeutsche Zeitung 18 Nov 1997, p. 14) \* mass strandings of sperm whales: 5 at the Dutch coast near Ameland, two in Germany (at Bremerhaven and Cuxhaven), 13 at Romo in Denmark, all within the first week of December 1997. Various theories blamed environmental pollution and the whales having been too stupid to follow the Gulf Stream. (taz 6 Dec 97, p. 4; Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung 5 Dec 1997, p. 13; Süddeutsche Zeitung 5 Dec 97, p. 16, 6 Dec 97, p. 16, 8 Dec 97, p. 12; Der Spiegel, 8 Dec 97, p. 18)

● Sharks: \* Two surfers escaped a great white shark on 28 October 1997 at Perth in Australia. The 5m shark (seems like a journalistic exaggeration) bit the surfboard of Brian Sierakowski and his friend in two, only 200 m from the beach. (Süddeutsche Zeitung 29 October 1997, p. 14; Welt 29 Oct 1997, p. 12; Badische Neueste Nachrichten, 29 Oct 1997, p. 8)

#### CRYPTOZOLOGY

● Manimals: \* As already mentioned in previous Bilks, Italian mountaineer Reinhold Messner claims to have made close-up movie footage of several yetis. Additional details may be found in Bunte, 1 Oct 1997, p. 66ff, where Messner says: "Legend and animal are identical. The yeti is no monster. The yeti is an animal with four legs. It often moves bipedally like a bear. An adult yeti stands 2.2 m/7.5ft tall, has a bright fur and eats yaks. There is much mythology surrounding the yeti. In the Himalayas, parents tell their children: If you are not nice the yeti will take you. The yeti is not called yeti. It has many names. I can't tell those names, because they are the key to the solution of the legend. [I have met the yeti several times] because I go where nobody else goes and have made more than 50 journeys to the Himalayas. [The last time I saw it] was on the western high plateau of the Himalayas. We were 3 - a friend, a local, me. We saw 3 yetis, and I was able to photograph 2. I could have touched one of them. The local shivered with fear. When you see this animal you are very frightened. You wouldn't want to meet it again!" Like in all interviews Messner gave about the yeti in the last 6 years, we have little concrete information to work with. Messner was also guest in Harald Schmidt's Late Night Show on SAT1 TV on 3.12.97.

\* Sumatra: British scientists have discovered an apemam in the jungle of Sumatra: the Orang Pendek. Up to 4 ft tall and biped. Expedition leader David Chivers of Cambridge University thinks it is an unknown species of ape. "It could just be that we have found a long-forgotten cousin" said anthropologist Phyllis Lee. (Focus 20 October 1997, p. 14; Sunday Times, 12 October 1997, credit: F. de Sarre) - Cryptozoologists think this discovery justifies them, as the orang pendek is on Heuvelman's list of animals to be found. However, all we have are sightings, fuzzy photos and footprints, so the status of orang pendek is like that of Bigfoot. Let's hope it exists. However, to speak of proof is a bit early.

● Thylacine: Palaeontologists have been able to show that thylacine-like creatures, now extinct, once existed in South America. (Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, 15 Oct 1997, p. N2) Das Tier, Oct 1997, p. 62-63, has an interview with a thylacine expert on the possible survival of the animal. He denies all "evidence" and says the famous photographs that had been in Fortean Times a few years ago were that of a stuffed museum specimen.